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Crime prevention and criminal justice

United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/198 and describes the general crime situation in Africa, focusing in particular on its impact on strategic areas of development. It focuses on crime prevention and criminal justice as factors in the promotion of the rule of law and discusses how crime undermines efforts for the maintenance of peace, security, good governance and the provision of social services. The report also focuses on the centrality of technical assistance and provides a broad overview of the emerging interventions for effective treatment and/or rehabilitation programmes for offenders. Strategies tailored to Africa's needs and realities with respect to reducing the level of crime are discussed. The report also outlines the challenges and discusses how funding difficulties have continued to undermine the Institute's capacity to service the region's needs in crime prevention and explores crucial factors for overcoming those challenges.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 69/198 and describes the general crime situation in Africa, focusing in particular on its impact on strategic areas of development. It focuses on crime prevention and criminal justice as factors in the promotion of the rule of law and discusses how crime undermines efforts for the maintenance of peace, security and good governance and the provision of social services. It also focuses on the centrality of technical assistance and provides a broad overview of the emerging interventions for effective treatment and/or rehabilitation programmes for offenders. Strategies tailored to Africa's needs and realities with respect to reducing the level of crime are discussed. The report also outlines challenges and discusses how funding difficulties have continued to undermine the Institute's capacity to service the region's needs in crime prevention and explores crucial factors for overcoming those challenges, including strategies for partnerships involving suitably mandated institutions in the search for specific interventions from a network of relevant agencies.

2. Concerns regarding crime continue to gain increasing prominence among current social problems. In the African region, crime results in the expenditure of a significant amount of resources, and crime prevention efforts continue to have a central role in the management of public affairs. The extent and severity of the problem have led to a continuing exchange of views among various stakeholders, to the development of a variety of approaches to providing capacity-building to criminal justice systems, and to improved collaboration among governments, institutions, experts and communities, for better understanding of the crime problem at the regional and international levels. Consequently, comprehensive and integrated crime prevention is increasingly becoming an interdepartmental concern, with a focus on the value of innovation and shared responsibility.

3. Crime is increasingly posing significant challenges to Africa's democracies and nascent justice systems in the face of the region's diverse systems of justice delivery to address the problem. The liberalization of information networks in the region has created new challenges in the form of the lack of or ineffectiveness of online protection measures. The unregulated information flows continue to expose users to intrusions, abuse, identity theft, intellectual property risks and pornography. Policing is inadequate: it remains centralized, its resources and capability are overstretched, and it is often unable to effectively respond to local needs and requires the upgrading of detection services. Urgent reform is also required in the areas of prosecution, sentencing and lawful custody in order to ensure the balance between deterrence and rehabilitation based on respect for individual rights. The key response to growing levels of crime is based on the criminal justice system, which, however, remains largely centralized and reliant on centralized systems and, to a lesser degree, on local initiatives. Consequently, there are reports of case backlogs, which result in citizens lapsing into apathy or the increasing use of extrajudicial responses to crimes committed by vigilante groups acting outside the law.

4. The upsurge in transnational organized crime, following the spillover of increasing radicalization in some subregions of Africa, has strained the capacity of law enforcement authorities and highlighted the need for increased vigilance and

updated skills. Recent developments have prompted the need for a greater emphasis on developing adequate competences and specific skills necessary for proactive measures, in addition to the traditional approaches, the acquisition of knowledge and capacity to react to crime committed. This, on a continuous basis, is leading to a review of existing policies and practices, focusing on greater reliance on a diversity of evidence-based studies and expert analyses, the response to which compels Africa to seek technical support. In this regard and consistent with its mandate, the Institute has the obligation to undertake programmes with relevant partners in order to respond to the needs of African countries in improving their criminal justice systems in order to provide remedial alternatives.

II. Governance and management

A. Governing Board

5. Against the background of declining financial support for the programmes of the Institute, the Governing Board of the Institute convened in Lilongwe on 29 May 2015 to discuss measures aimed at reinvigorating the Institute. With a special focus on the future of the Institute, the Board considered the following:

(a) The report on the proposed restructuring of the Institute;

(b) The establishment of a full Board, which would provide guidance to the Institute for the period 2015-2019, as indicated in paragraph 6, below;

(c) The extension of contracts of the current staff of the Institute. (The proposed extension was endorsed.)

6. The Board approved proposals to constitute a full Board, following the replacement of Member States whose term of office had expired. The new Board is constituted as follows:

North Africa	Egypt and Tunisia
Central Africa	Congo and Equatorial Guinea
West Africa	Ghana and Senegal
Southern Africa	Mozambique and Zambia
East Africa	Democratic Republic of the Congo and United Republic of Tanzania

Furthermore, Uganda, by virtue of being the host country, remains a permanent member of the Board.

7. The Board made a number of decisions reflecting the importance of making a fundamental shift from the traditional means of governance, resource mobilization and operations, and ushering the Institute onto a new platform where reforms in methods of work will be a significant feature.

8. Discussions about increasing the effectiveness of the Institute centred on three future intervention options: (a) allowing the Economic Commission for Africa to take over the management of the Institute, (b) allowing one member State to take

over the management of the Institute on behalf of all its member States, and (c) maintaining the status quo.

9. The option of allowing the Economic Commission for Africa to take over the Institute was discussed, and it was found that it would not provide a prompt solution, as it was considered that such a takeover would be a protracted process with no guarantee of express support or success, in view of the many issues to be clarified and the many stakeholders involved at each stage of decision-making. In addition, the circumstances which had informed the decision to delink the Institute from the Economic Commission for Africa still exist.

10. The Board also declined the option of a member State taking over the Institute, as that would downplay the pan-African nature of the Institute. Finally, the Board decided to maintain the status quo, which gives prominence to the future of the Institute as a responsibility of the member States, with opportunities for additional support through the following:

(a) The development of a strategic plan which would highlight the resources, personnel and logistics necessary for a breakthrough and transform the Institute's capacity to deliver mandated services. The Board resolved that the strategic plan for the Institute should indicate clear key benchmarks, a clear mandate and a sharper focus. That would result in a more realistic assessment of the challenges faced by the Institute and an increased focus on the appropriate structure for the Secretariat, the resources required, a lean mandate and focused objective to be managed by the Secretariat in its efforts to pursue a vigorous advocacy strategy and create focal points in the region;

(b) Advocacy at the General Assembly to support requests from the Institute for an increase in the budget, with the view to increasing commitments to recruitment and the retention of qualified personnel in the wake of emerging crime prevention and criminal justice challenges;

(c) Approach the Economic Commission for Africa to explore increases in the United Nations grant.

11. The Board noted the concerns of the Institute that its strategic objectives were driven by demand from member States and that this created difficulties in creating a niche due to a multiplicity of crime prevention needs in Africa, and decided that there should be a sharper focus on the strategic priorities in the short- to medium-term. The Institute should then be so structured as to ensure that the Secretariat was able to deliver on its mandate and strategies, working within its parameters towards realistic objectives. In that regard, the Board resolved as follows:

(a) The Board called upon all African countries to have a sense of ownership of the Institute and respond to all their responsibilities. That means fulfilling the attendant financial and other obligations;

(b) The Institute should consolidate its existing partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa. The Commission has appropriate organs whose functional capacity and objectives tally with those of the Institute, and the Institute should widen the spectrum of its partnerships to include other agencies and organizations such as the African Union and other international agencies to service Africa's needs in crime prevention, criminal justice, governance and development;

(c) There is a need for the Institute to oversee the existing national and regional initiatives in Africa in order to stimulate and/or anchor the synergies available within the continent;

(d) The Board acknowledged the financial difficulties affecting the Institute and noted that the Institute should make efforts to enhance its public profile, which was affected by the lack of advocacy of the Institute's services, and resolved that advocacy initiatives, which would attract resources and membership by prospective member States, should be the mainstay of the strategic management of the Institute;

(e) The Institute should provide required services which are tailored to the needs of member States.

B. General direction and management

12. A successful response to crime prevention involves building networks of agencies and receiving support at various levels of decision-making. Based on the decision of the Governing Board, the Institute has been tasked with developing a strategic plan for the next five years. That plan will include the undertaking of fundamental reforms in governance, service provision, resource mobilization and innovation in networking with relevant agencies, which have significant potential to provide the needed professional interventions to address Africa's crime problem. The Board has pledged to provide political and financial support to spur that development.

13. It will be crucial for the Institute to focus on a few key policy issues that have implications at the level of the continent, as opposed to an excessive diversification and fragmentation of policies. That policy approach should aim to build sustainable networks. The Board has offered to support selected reforms in mandate and attendant instruments of the Institute to give legitimacy and operational weight to this evolving functional status. In that regard, attention will focus on widening the scope of collaborative strategies in the fight against new crime trends, such as terrorist groups in Africa, and support Africa's regional integration project, especially through the participation of crime prevention and criminal justice actors from both the public and private sectors.

14. The new focus on the region is part of a global endeavour to respond with effective measures to proactively eliminate potential threats to development. A combined effect of prosecutions, enforcement, investigation/detection and judicial promptness spurs proactive action against crime and is expected to contribute to reducing crime levels.

15. Through its routine visits to sister institutions and missions of member States in various capitals, the Institute is stressing the importance of effective and strong alliances among law enforcement personnel, professional bodies, academic institutions, individual communities, experts and traditional and civil authorities. Such alliances are critical for creating the necessary conditions for the mobilization of competences and building the capacity needed for the successful implementation of crime prevention projects. The differences in intervention strategies and skills (e.g., detection, prosecution, correction, awareness-raising and funding) undermine

efforts to address sophisticated crime by utilizing the cumulative skills, a situation which calls for increased collaboration among all stakeholders.

16. Together with a consortium of partners, the Institute is collaborating within the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to promote activities to strengthen national capacities for tackling identified regional challenges. Accordingly, certain activities of the Institute are specifically related to identified areas of need, such as cybercrime, environmental crime, examination of malpractices and community participation in intervention initiatives. The Institute is collaborating with stakeholders in criminal justice administration, such as police, prosecution and judges, as well as professional organizations, to build a strong coalition for sensitization to illicit activities, proactive crime prevention programmes, the promulgation of effective cybercrime legislation and the harmonization of effective legal frameworks.

17. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 69/198 and the Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels, and Public Participation,[1] the Institute is collaborating with several stakeholders in the public and private sectors to build capacity to do the following:

(a) Further promote the benefits, in some cases, of the utilization of alternative remedial measures, where appropriate, while applying standards of ethical conduct and using local traditions, counselling and other emerging correctional rehabilitation measures, consistent with the obligations of States under international law;

(b) Spearhead efforts to establish contacts with organizations in countries that are promoting crime prevention programmes and maintain close links with regional and subregional political entities, such as the African Union Commission, the East African Community, the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Southern African Development Community;

(c) Urge all Member States, non-governmental organizations and the international community to continue to adopt concrete practical measures to support its efforts for the development of the requisite capacity in the implementation of its programmes and activities aimed at strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice systems in Africa.

18. The Institute is collaborating with the office of the Chair of the Governing Board (Malawi) and Chair of the Review Committee (Uganda) to give effect to the proposals leading to its restructuring process as a means of strengthening its functional capacity.

[1] See the report of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (A/CONF.222/17).

III. Substantive programmes and activities

A. Overview

19. The Institute is part of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice network, which is a global network of agencies for crime prevention and criminal justice and serves the African region by offering a range of crime prevention and criminal justice services aimed at harmonizing practices and policies to achieve shared objectives for security and development.

20. The most predictable occurrence and a commonly cited development within the criminal justice system has been the widespread use of new technologies. In view of the increase in crime committed by electronic means, as evidenced by recent developments, technology is also increasingly being used in the administration and delivery of justice. The use of technology among the prosecution and defence lawyers is evident: it is used for the provision of resources to the judges and magistrates, lawyers and, in a limited way, the communities. In many cases, training is necessary for all stakeholders and, in view of its mandate, the Institute is best suited to provide that training.

21. Owing to the increase in electronically engineered crime, there are immense difficulties in the administration of justice arising from matching the existing policies and practices to the new forms of crime, prompting a review in the systems for the collection and submission of corresponding evidence. These changes have placed new demands on the criminal justice systems in Africa, where the level of technological application and relative competences is still low. That pressure is increasing, making it almost mandatory that criminal justice procedures will have to be more cost-conscious, timely and expeditious and sensitive to public responses, and have to minimize or eliminate any suspicions of compromises. Often, this requires innovative capacity-building to be successful.

22. Global losses from cybercrime have been escalating annually. The Institute is collaborating with relevant organizations to evaluate the cost for local production in view of challenges relating to the safety of communication networks. While organizations and enterprises continue to invest in protective technologies and techniques, progress on finding, prosecuting and punishing perpetrators of cybercrime is slow. The cross-border nature of such crime, the differing roles of governments and private sector service providers, and variations in national capacities, laws and procedures, are among the factors that make progress difficult. In particular, better cooperation on a global basis between law enforcement agencies and the private sector is essential. By engaging governments, business, academia and civil society participants, it is hoped that practical solutions to real and urgent challenges will be found.

B. Project activities

23. Through the building of networks, the Institute's efforts with criminal justice systems have brought to the fore the need to undertake reforms and improve their level of collaboration at the regional level to provide greater support for capacity-building in sustaining and updating skills to address the dynamic crime

situation. Forensic investigations, digital evidence and technological appliances are becoming crucial in the management of litigation today to mirror the developments in the commission of crime, including the increasing use of technology to detect, investigate and prosecute cases. Owing to personnel challenges, cases take a long time to be disposed of. Technology is essential in expediting case disposal through easier access to witnesses via technological links and the preservation of evidence.

24. In the period under review, the Institute focused efforts on addressing national challenges posed by transnational organized crime, consistent with the focus of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. Awareness-raising meetings have been held with relevant institutions to promote the benefits derived from good governance, on the basis of the rule of law, and to seek support from relevant departments in integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into their national programmes.

25. The Institute is building a consortium of partners, collaborating with UNODC in promoting activities for strengthened national capacities to tackle identified regional challenges. Accordingly, certain activities of the Institute have focused on the area of cybercrime and are based on the benefits of inter-institutional relations among the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other agencies. The Institute is building networks for enhanced technical and evidence-based support to address new forms of crime, including cybercrime. The Institute is collaborating with stakeholders in criminal justice administration — police, prosecution and judges — as well as professional organizations, to build a strong coalition for sensitization to illicit activities, proactive crime prevention programmes, the promulgation of effective cybercrime legislation and the harmonization of effective legal frameworks.

26. There have been significant efforts in convening regional conferences as a step forward in terms of the evolving jurisprudence on cyberspace and cybercrime law consistent with emerging updates in developments experienced in other regions.

27. Despite the benefits derived from these conferences inasmuch as they impact on the potential of enhancing cybersecurity in the region, based on the expertise of speakers from different parts of the world, much remains to be done, and resources are required to implement the detailed road map and conference resolutions. There has been increased focus on the strategic importance of regional collaboration and the continued need to sustain the Institute's programme activities.

28. In the emerging partnerships, the exchange of best practices is ongoing in order to enrich the discussions in the search for effective strategies and capacity-building.

29. The Institute is following up on the recommendations of workshops in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (August 2013), Kampala (July 2014) and Accra (March 2014), which focused on areas such as regional/international cooperation, resource mobilization, sharing of information/best practices, capacity-building, increased awareness on the rising trend of cybercrime, and the promotion of the admissibility of online evidence and other electronic data in litigations.

30. UNODC and the Institute jointly conducted digital forensics and electronic evidence capacity-building assessments in Uganda in November 2014 to determine

the needs of the criminal justice system and establish the foundation for further technical assistance activities in the country. The assessments form part of activities in preparation for a regional information-sharing network meeting on cybercrime and electronic evidence, scheduled to take place in Nairobi in August 2015.

31. In February 2015, the Institute facilitated the promotion of mutual legal assistance by law enforcement agencies at the regional level through the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization. Opportunities now exist for the exchange of information, intelligence and other assistance for law enforcement agencies, with respect to the challenges posed by transnational organized crime.

32. In promoting restorative justice, relevant traditional initiatives for conflict resolution are being emphasized in the ongoing dialogue with the Uganda Law Society, the Uganda Prisons Service and civil society organizations. A plan of action to implement the Kadoma Declaration on Community Service (promoting community-based sanctions), the Kampala Declaration on Prison Conditions in Africa (improving the management of correctional institutions) and the Lilongwe Declaration on Accessing Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System in Africa is being considered for implementation at the national level and will be replicated as a best practice in other jurisdictions.

33. The Institute has been collaborating with the criminal justice system in Uganda to adopt a plea bargaining initiative piloted to dispose of a backlog of cases. There are indications that the initiative is gaining significant support from the legal community, and the offenders are, equally, showing significant cooperation with the courts handling their cases. The initiative will be replicated elsewhere in Africa.

34. The Institute held discussions with the authorities in Malawi in November 2014 in response to a need for technical assistance regarding adopting of sentencing guidelines, as a transfer of a best practice. The Institute played a key role in offering technical support for a project on sentencing guidelines, at the inception of that project, in Uganda, where it is now a successful policy in use.

C. Information dissemination and collaboration

35. Funding challenges have significantly undermined the production of resources under the subprogramme on information dissemination and collaboration. The Institute has continued to produce quarterly newsletters. Future editions will be posted online.

IV. International cooperation and partnerships

36. The Institute has maintained collaboration with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network and other sister agencies in a series of events including workshops, meetings, conferences and seminars. At such events, the Institute works to engage new partners and consolidate existing coalitions.

V. Funding and support

37. The total income of the Institute for 2014 was $513,057. That was more than what was received in 2013 ($322,659.87). Income from assessed contributions, like all other income except the grant, declined during the year, compared with previous years.

38. The total income of $513,057 received in 2014 came from the following sources (with income for 2013 shown for comparison), as shown below:

	2014		*2013*	
Source	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Percentage of income*	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Percentage of income*
Member States' assessed contributions	124 836	24	164 362.73	51
Grant from the United Nations (2014 portion)	266 900	52	82 900.00	26
Other income (interest, premiums and rent)	121 321	24	75 397.14	23
Total income	**513 057**		**322 659.87**	

39. For the period January-May 2015, the total income of the Institute was as follows (with the same period in 2014 for comparison), as shown below:

	January-May 2015		*January-May 2014*	
Source	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Percentage of income*	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*Percentage of income*
Member States' assessed contributions	159 108.55	61	--	--
Grant from the United Nations (2014 portion)	93 485	36	266 900	94
Other income (interest, premiums and rent)	9 318.83	3	16 156.28	6
Total income	**261 912.38**		**283 056.38**	

A. Assessed financial contributions from member States

40. During the 2014 financial year (January-December 2014) only 4 of the 29 States members of the Institute paid part of their arrears on assessed contributions. Only Uganda and Seychelles paid their current assessed contributions. The 2014 assessed contributions are provided in the table below:

Country	*Amount paid in 2014 (United States dollars)*
Kenya	29 096.76
Mozambique	8 510.13
Uganda	55 793.16
Seychelles	25 012.00
United Republic of Tanzania	6 423.95
Total	**124 836**

41. For the period January to May 2015, three countries paid their 2015 assessed financial contributions, namely Seychelles ($24,986.01); Ghana ($124,787) and Uganda ($9,335.54). The total accumulated outstanding member States assessed contributions currently stood at $9,705,671.18 as at 30 May 2015.

42. Of the registered States members of the Institute, seven States (Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Niger, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) have never paid any assessed contributions to the Institute, one country (Rwanda) paid only once, in 1998, and two countries (Egypt and Guinea) stopped in 1996, leaving only 19 countries to shoulder the responsibility of funding the Institute, although even among those, only a few pay regularly. The following countries have continued to honour their financial obligations regularly and in time, and hence have no accumulated arrears: Ghana, Seychelles and Uganda.

43. Both the Secretariat of the Institute and the Chair have tried, by various means, including writing letters, using personal contacts and communicating through embassies in respective capitals, to appeal to member States to honour their mandated financial obligations, with very limited success. In February 2015, the Secretariat approached Uganda's Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is the current President of the General Assembly, to add to the efforts of the Chair and appeal to Member States, in his capacity as the President of the General Assembly. The Minister, on behalf of the Uganda Government, which hosts the Institute and currently holds the presidency of the United Nations General Assembly, to which the Institute is an affiliate, made a special appeal to the Member States, through their Ministers of Foreign Affairs, "to render every possible assistance to contact all the relevant authorities in their countries with a request to settle all/partial accumulated outstanding assessed contributions of their countries". The Institute is yet to receive their responses.

44. The continued non-payment of annual assessed financial contributions has adversely affected the Institute. The Institute's approved budget for 2014/2015 is $4,130,685, of which $3,016,056 (73 per cent) is expected from States members' assessed contributions. The funding is expected to be earmarked for both approved activities and administrative expenses, including the salaries of the administrative support staff. Failure to receive the funding means that costs cannot be adequately met, which in turn, leads to the non-implementation of several approved programme activities.

45. The Secretariat of the Institute is very grateful to those States members that have continued to meet their financial obligations promptly and regularly, and calls upon those whose accounts are in arrears to pay all or partially those outstanding arrears.

B. United Nations grant

46. As in the previous biennium, the General Assembly approved a grant of $365,300 for the biennium 2014-2015. Traditionally, the grant covers the salaries and other emoluments of the Institute core professional staff, namely the Director, Deputy Director, Training Adviser, Research and Policy Development Adviser, Information/Documentation Adviser and Administration/Finance Officer.

47. Since the ninth session of the Governing Board, held in Kampala on 21 and 22 June 2004, when salaries of the Institute's staff were adjusted as a temporary remedy until they could be equated to those of the Economic Commission for Africa, core professional staff costs of the Institute were adjusted from $380,400 to $711,760, creating a difference of $331,360. The current grant of $356,064.16 can pay the salaries of only three professional staff.

48. During the reporting period, the Institute operated without the services of the core professional international staff, namely the Director, Training Adviser and the Information/Documentation Adviser. The Research Adviser left in mid-2014 as the Institute could not afford to meet relevant allowances accruing to the post such as home leave, education grant and study visits.

49. In order for the Institute to operate normally, all the established posts must be filled; and in order to attract highly qualified and motivated international staff, adequate funds must be made available to the Institute to pay commensurate salaries in order to retain the staff.

50. The Institute therefore appeals to the General Assembly, as was done last year, to consider increasing the grant to be able to reinstate the vacant posts of Director, Training Adviser, Information/Documentation Adviser and Research and Policy Development Adviser, in addition to the existing two professional staff: the Deputy Director and the Administration/Finance Officer.

51. The total human resources and relevant salaries needed during the biennium 2016-2017 are shown in the table below.

Table
Professional staff salaries, 2014/2015 (current) and 2016/2017 (proposed)

				Proposed 2016-2017 UNAFRI salaries		
Established post	*No. of posts*	*UNAFRI salary scale*	*Current amount, 2014-2015 (24 months) (dollars)*	*No. of posts*	*UNAFRI salary scales*	*Amount (dollars) 24 months*
Director's Office						
Director	1	Vacant		1	D1/VII	176 820
Director's Secretary	1	Vacant		1	GS/10/VIII	63 000
Deputy Director's Office						
Deputy Director	1	P5/IX	105 728	1	P5/X	158 592
Secretary	1	GS/10/VIII	40 800	1	GS/10/VIII	63 000
Training and Meetings Department						
Training Adviser	1	Vacant		1	P3/VI	104 160
Training Assistant	1	GS/10/X	44 239	1	GS/10/X	66 360
Policy Research Department						
Research Adviser	1	Vacant		1	P4/VI	124 320
Research Assistant	1	GS/10/X	44 239	1	GS/10/X	66 360
Information/Documentation Department						
Information/Documentation Adviser	1	Vacant		1	P3/VI	104 160
Information Officer	1	GS/10/X	44 239	1	GS/10/X	66 360
Senior Bilingual Secretary	1	GS/10/X	44 239	1	GS/10/X	66 360

Established post	*No. of posts*	*UNAFRI salary scale*	*Current amount 2014-2015 (24 months) (dollars)*	*Proposed 2016-2017 UNAFRI salaries*		
				No. of posts	*UNAFRI salary scales*	*Amount (dollars) 24 months*
Administration/Finance Department						
Administrative/Finance Officer	1	P3/X	75 712	1	P3/X	113 568
Administrative/Finance Assistant	1	GS/10/X	44 239	1	GS/10/X	66 360
Total salary	**13**		**443 435**			**1 259 580**
Non-salary costs			**110 858**			**314 895**
Total			**554 293**			**1 574 475**

Notes

1 Non-salary costs which are calculated at 25 per cent of total salary include an annual gratuity of 20 per cent of salary, an education grant to international professional staff and basic medical refunds to staff, all amounting to 5 per cent of salary.

2 During the biennium 2016-2017, the Institute will adjust current salary to incorporate a 50 per cent salary increment which the Board authorized in 2010 but delayed due to insufficient funds.

3 Both professional and immediate support staff salaries have been included to provide current staffing in the various departments.

4 The total salary requirement for the biennium 2016-2017 is $1,574,475, of which $1,002,225 is for professional staff, which is to be covered from the grant, and $572,250 is for support staff, to be covered from assessed contributions for member States.

C. Other income

52. In the reporting period, the Institute continued to receive additional income from interest, premium and rentals. The revenue from that source for the period January 2014-May 2015 is as follows:

Source	*January-May 2015*	*January-December 2014*
Other income (interest, premiums and rent)	9 318.83	121 321
Total income	**9 318.83**	**121 321**

VI. Future of the Institute

53. Over the previous years, the Institute has been under pressure from the users of its services to provide greater support for capacity-building in sustaining and updating skills to address the dynamic crime situation, aggravated by the new trends of transnational organized crime, specifically cybercrime and electronically engineered crime. Forensic investigations, digital evidence and technological appliances are becoming crucial in the management of litigation today in order to mirror the developments in how crime is committed, with a number of jurisdictions expressing increasing interest in considering the introduction and adoption of the types of initiatives that are being practised with success elsewhere, including the

increasing use of technology to detect, investigate and prosecute cases, all in the need to make processes more transparent.

54. Recent developments in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice have included a greater emphasis on developing competences and skills necessary for proactive measures, rather than the acquisition of knowledge to react to crimes already committed. This has led to a greater reliance on alternative forms of assessment of existing policies and practices, prompting continuous assessment and reviews which translate into reforms in practice. This has placed new demands on the criminal justice systems in the form of a requirement to validate the impact of sentences on the communities and victims, more than merely administering justice, and a requirement to support learning and sharing of best practices by networking with a variety of jurisdictions.

55. There are programmes to promote the building of strategic relationships with a range of stakeholders, particularly local communities, to ensure that a greater range of support is available for the dissemination of useful information and for promoting valuable sensitization materials to all stakeholders. The Institute aims to provide guidance on local initiatives based on relevant traditional practices for crime prevention and criminal justice, explore available opportunities and develop prospective local and regional partnerships and support for sustained development.

56. There is a greater emphasis on the integration of post-prison release initiatives to emphasize the role of rehabilitation to ensure that the rate of recidivism is controlled. These have a special appeal to communities and are expected to generate considerable interest in their involvement.

57. The Institute has sought to shift the focus away from the traditional funding sources, such as member States' financial contributions, towards developing the available potential of resource mobilization within collaboration projects with sister agencies, hoping to tap into existing expertise, which is vital to Africa.

58. The resolutions of the Board at its sixth extraordinary session have placed greater focus on a strong and well-managed Institute. Member States have committed themselves to enhancing political good will and addressing their obligations at the higher levels of decision-making in their countries. This is expected to lead to a financial breakthrough that will help the Institute operate more effectively. Having suffered a significant inability to raise financial resources over a long period of time, the Institute is working to reverse the impact of a weak resource base through focused reforms in mandate and strategic planning. It is crucial that with support required for its programme of activities, the future of crime prevention would get the needed attention being sought in the region.

59. While dealing with the challenges of management and resource mobilization, the Institute has devised strategies for continuing the provision of services in a corporate world with which partnerships will be formed.

60. In line with the resolution of the Governing Board, special initiatives aimed at creating an African crime and criminal justice information network, under the auspices of the African Union Commission, as the core of pan-African crime prevention and criminal justice activities and programmes, will be developed to:

(a) Urge member States to intensify efforts to accelerate the establishment of focal points;

(b) Mobilize funding for specific crime and criminal justice-related pan-African projects;

(c) Utilize the available expert resources of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in the various capacity-building and research projects and programmes outlined above.

61. To that end, international technical assistance, on bilateral and multilateral bases, should be provided for African countries to enhance their capacities for fighting transnational organized crime.

62. The Institute will work with the African Union to provide a common position expected to facilitate the adoption of a meaningful set of measures, which will take account of Africa's realities and interests, and which will consolidate gains achieved, as well as contribute to intensifying efforts to combat and control transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons and firearms, smuggling of migrants, terrorism, corruption, economic and financial crimes, money-laundering and computer-related crime, including enhancing criminal justice reforms, with an emphasis on restorative justice.

63. It is important to note that success comes with the responsibility to build human and institutional competence for national stability. In this regard, the Institute is enhancing its focus on promoting tailored collaboration with academic institutions to pursue research-based programmes, participate in activities aimed at increasing awareness about human rights, as well as capacity-building, and mobilize resources useful in the campaign for effective criminal justice as a basis for sustained crime prevention. The Institute is open to the possibility of investments in building mechanisms for criminal justice authorities in the region, where they would participate in education programmes available at tertiary institutions and practical aspects of discharging justice, engage with African scholarly and intellectual communities, and participate in the development of online courses and other resources in African studies for strengthening traditional systems of justice delivery.

64. Although the criminal justice system in Africa relies significantly on the traditional informal networks, its relationship with conventional mechanisms of justice administration, notably with huge hierarchical arrangements in major administrative structures, have also been overshadowed by notably high levels of illiteracy, which human rights campaigners say is decimating confidence and reporting obligations due to a lack of documentation necessary to sustain evidence. And this is where efforts to sensitize traditional criminal justice systems and local communities will have to be strengthened.

65. The Institute is targeting the provision of guidance on local initiatives based on relevant traditional practices for crime prevention and criminal justice, exploring available opportunities to develop prospective local and regional partnerships and support for sustained development. Together with a consortium of partners, the

Institute is collaborating with UNODC in promoting activities for strengthened national capacities to tackle identified regional challenges. A programme of integrating several domestically-oriented tactical, short-term training sessions will provide for the development of a special category of crime prevention elites to be leaders and form a crop of knowledgeable activists. The Institute is working to interest public and private sector institutions in programmes for professional capacity-building. These will be coordinated with relevant national authorities and the attendant cost of their implementation is expected to be a shared responsibility for the benefit of the wider concerns regarding involvement of local communities in crime prevention and criminal justice initiatives.

VII. Conclusion

66. The reforms envisaged for the Institute are coupled with plans to make the Institute a centre of excellence in providing technical support to African countries in the fight against emerging trends of crime. Greater regional support and enhanced regional cooperation are seen as critical to combating the spread of transnational organized crime, including emerging extremist groups and radicalization. New developments will now require the Institute to play a more prominent role in the regional programmes and contribute to threat assessments. Regional cooperation is essential for national governments to form a coalition to deny radical elements the opportunity to create bases for their illicit operations. The envisaged plans underscore the need for the Institute to develop special programmes aimed at protecting communities and building a sustainable future.

67. And yet the law on its own is not enough for addressing crime. Prevention efforts need to focus on victims and potential victims and not perpetrators alone. There is need for a paradigm change on the part of criminal justice systems. The Institute will continue to engage with member States on remedial projects to respond to their crime problems.

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Item 137 of the preliminary list*
Pattern of conferences

Pattern of conferences

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains information on matters relating to conference management pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 69/250 and 32/72 and other relevant mandates. Statistical data are provided as supplementary information. The documents of the Committee on Conferences are available electronically at http://coc.dgacm.org.

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I. Meetings management

A. Calendar of conferences and meetings

1. Requests for exceptions to section I, paragraph 7, of General Assembly resolution 40/243

1. Requests to meet during the seventieth session of the General Assembly have been received from the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, the Disarmament Commission, the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the Committee on Relations with the Host Country, the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (see supplementary information,[1] sect. I). In accordance with established practice, the requests will be reviewed by the Committee on Conferences for recommendation to the General Assembly.

2. Draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2016 and 2017

2. The provisional calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields for 2016 and 2017 (E/2015/L.8) was reviewed by the Committee on Conferences on 29 June 2015 and its comments were transmitted to the Economic and Social Council for consideration at its coordination and management meeting in July 2015 (E/2015/85).

3. During its substantive session, in September 2015, the Committee on Conferences will review the draft biennial calendar of conferences and meetings for 2016 and 2017 (A/AC.172/2015/L.2) and transmit its recommendations to the General Assembly in its report for 2015 (to be issued as A/70/32, annexes I and II).

3. Intersessional departures

4. The Committee on Conferences approved the following requests:

(a) Request received in December 2014 from the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to hold four meetings outside regular meeting hours and also to extend its autumn session of 2014 by two days;

(b) Request received in April 2015 from the Advisory Committee to extend the duration of three of its meetings of its winter session of 2015 outside regular meeting hours;

(c) Request received in 2014 from the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for an additional plenary meeting during the eighth session of the Conference, held in June 2015;

(d) Request received in 2015 from the Commission on the Status of Women for an additional meeting during its fifty-ninth session;

(e) Request received in 2015 from the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to extend the duration of one of its meetings outside regular meeting hours.

[1] Available from http://coc.dgacm.org/2015/Documents/2015_Supplementary_Information.pdf.

B. Utilization of conference-servicing resources and facilities

1. Analysis of meeting performance indicators of United Nations organs

Utilization factor by number of meetings of bodies in the core sample

5. The utilization factor by duty station for the past three years is summarized in table 1, while the details by body for the past three years on the utilization of conference resources allocated to a core sample of bodies that met in New York, Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi is presented in section II, table 1, of the supplementary information. The overall utilization factor for meetings of the core sample with interpretation at all four duty stations in 2014 was 86 per cent, an improvement of 4 percentage points compared with 2013. This is the result of fewer cancellations and less time lost owing to late starts and early conclusions, in addition to more successful reassignments in 2014. At the four duty stations, the number of meetings with interpretation in the core sample increased by 8 per cent, from 1,846 in 2013 to 1,996 in 2014.

Provision of conference services to all meetings held

6. The total number of meetings with interpretation increased by 6 per cent, from 6,695 in 2013 to 7,114 in 2014. The utilization factor for all meetings with interpretation serviced by the four duty stations increased from 77 per cent in 2013 to 80 per cent in 2014. This is attributed to a decrease in cancellations by 11 per cent and a reduction in time lost by 8 per cent (see sect. II, tables 6 and 7, of the supplementary information).

Table 1
Utilization factor by number of meetings of bodies in the core sample by duty station

	Number of meetings, 2014						*Utilization factor (percentage)*
Duty station	*A (programmed)*	*B (added)*	*C (cancelled)*	*D (held)*	*E[a] (reassigned)*	*F (minutes lost)*	*2014[b]*
New York	1 173	124	208	1 089	126	26 040	83
Geneva	704	8	9	703	1	8 285	92
Vienna	177	2	7	172	–	3 010	87
Nairobi	28	4	–	32	–	735	87
Total	**2 082**	**138**	**224**	**1 996**	**127**	**38 070**	**86**

	Number of meetings, 2013						Utilization factor (percentage)
Duty station	A (programmed)	B (added)	C (cancelled)	D (held)	E[a] (reassigned)	F (minutes lost)	2013[b]
New York	1 202	80	225	1 057	112	29 500	78
Geneva	535	26	13	548	2	7 760	90
Vienna	198	1	6	193	–	3 840	86
Nairobi	42	8	2	48	–	1 320	81
Total	**1 977**	**115**	**246**	**1 846**	**114**	**42 420**	**82**

	Number of meetings, 2012						Utilization factor (percentage)
Duty station	A (programmed)	B (added)	C (cancelled)	D (held)	E[a] (reassigned)	F (minutes lost)	2012[b]
New York	1 162	50	196	1 016	101	28 810	79
Geneva	641	22	5	658	–	7 945	93
Vienna	169	–	3	166	–	2 895	89
Nairobi	26	–	–	26	–	370	92
Total	**1 998**	**72**	**204**	**1 866**	**101**	**40 020**	**84**

[a] Related reassignments.
[b] Utilization factor, counting only related reassignments.

7. Pursuant to paragraph 36 of General Assembly resolution 69/250, the Secretariat identified five core sample bodies as having a utilization factor below 80 per cent for the past three consecutive years. Those bodies, identified in section II, table 1.A, of the supplementary information, are the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group, the Committee on Information, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law and the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The 10-year averages of four of those bodies — all based in New York — are also below the benchmark of 80 per cent, as described in paragraph 9.

8. In May and June 2015, the Chair of the Committee on Conferences met the presiding officers of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, the Committee on Information, the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group. Although the mandate of the Chair relates to the previous three sessions, those bodies had already completed their main session for 2015 at the time of the meetings and the additional information aided the discussions. Of those four bodies based in New York that had not reached the benchmark in any regular session between 2012 and 2014, three exceeded the utilization benchmark of 80 per cent in 2015. The Chair of the Committee on Conferences encouraged the presiding officers and secretariats to continue to employ the same and/or additional measures in the future to achieve optimum utilization. The

Chair also wrote to the Chair of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, which is based in Vienna, outlining possible measures to improve its utilization factor and encouraging the Commission's secretariat to continue to work closely with the Conference Management Service in Vienna and the Meetings Management Section in New York.

9. None of the bodies based in Geneva or Nairobi in the core sample had utilization factors below the benchmark of 80 per cent for each of the past three years.

10. Each of the following seven intergovernmental bodies based in New York has a 10 year (2005-2014) average utilization factor for mandated sessions below the benchmark of 80 per cent (see sect. II, tables 8 and 9, of the supplementary information):

(a) Commission for Social Development (78 per cent);

(b) Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (77 per cent);

(c) Commission on Population and Development (76 per cent);

(d) Committee on Contributions (72 per cent);

(e) Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and its Working Group (69 per cent);

(f) Committee on Information (66 per cent);

(g) Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization (59 per cent).

11. The Committee on Contributions adjusted its programme of work and reached a utilization factor of 88 per cent in 2014, up from 71 per cent in 2013 and 61 per cent in 2012, exceeding the benchmark for the first time since 2004. The Statistical Commission reached a utilization factor of 96 per cent in 2014, up from 81 per cent in 2013, raising its 10-year average from 79 to 81 per cent. The Commission on Population and Development has reached utilization factors above the benchmark at each of its annual sessions since 2010 and in 2014 achieved its best result — 96 per cent. The Commission for Social Development moved up from 69 per cent in 2013 to 88 per cent in 2014. The Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization had a utilization factor of 48 per cent in 2014, down from 52 per cent in 2013. In 2014, the Committee on Information increased its utilization factor to 75 per cent, the highest since 2009.

12. Beginning in 2013, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management expanded its efforts to assist intergovernmental bodies to enhance their utilization of resources. Meeting services reports to the presiding officers and the secretariats of all calendar bodies before and immediately after their scheduled sessions now include statistical data on the utilization factor for the previous 10 years with analyses. Discussions are held with the secretariats of bodies whose utilization falls far below the benchmark, and client feedback is actively sought to help to identify specific ways to improve the utilization factor.

13. The conference managers fully appreciate the complicated and unpredictable nature of intergovernmental processes, respect the judgement of presiding officers

and are mindful that efforts to enhance the utilization of conference resources must not prejudice the substantive work of the meeting bodies.

Planning accuracy

14. The planning accuracy factor at the four duty stations is shown in table 2 (see also supplementary information, sect. II, table 5). Globally, the factor for 2014 was 83 per cent, which was slightly higher than the level of 82 per cent in 2013 but lower than the level of 86 per cent in 2012. New York saw a further increase in additions to programmed meetings, while cancellations remained high. The Fifth Committee added 37 meetings to its programme during the main part of the sixty-ninth session, compared with only 5 in 2013 and 6 in 2012. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions added 24 meetings with interpretation in 2014, compared with 18 in 2013 and 10 in 2012.

Table 2
Planning accuracy factor by number and percentage of meetings of bodies in the core sample by duty station

	Number of meetings, 2014					*Planning accuracy factor (percentage)*
Duty station	*A (programmed)*	*B (added)*	*C (cancelled)*	*D (held)*	*E (reassigned)*	*2014*
New York	1 173	124	208	1 089	126	72
Geneva	704	8	9	703	1	98
Vienna	177	2	7	172	–	95
Nairobi	28	4	–	32	–	86
Total	**2 082**	**138**	**224**	**1 996**	**127**	**83**

	Number of meetings, 2013					*Planning accuracy factor (percentage)*
Duty station	*A (programmed)*	*B (added)*	*C (cancelled)*	*D (held)*	*E (reassigned)*	*2013*
New York	1 202	80	225	1 057	112	75
Geneva	535	26	13	548	2	93
Vienna	198	1	6	193	–	96
Nairobi	42	8	2	48	–	76
Total	**1 977**	**115**	**246**	**1 846**	**114**	**82**

	Number of meetings, 2012					Planning accuracy factor (percentage)
Duty station	A (programmed)	B (added)	C (cancelled)	D (held)	E (reassigned)	2012
New York	1 162	50	196	1 016	101	79
Geneva	641	22	5	658	–	96
Vienna	169	–	3	166	–	98
Nairobi	26	–	–	26	–	100
Total	**1 998**	**72**	**204**	**1 866**	**101**	**86**

2. Provision of interpretation services to meetings of bodies entitled to meet "as required"

15. The statistics on the provision of conference services in 2014 for bodies entitled to meet "as required" in New York and Geneva are presented in table 3. In New York, the rate fell from 98 per cent in 2013 to 97 per cent in 2014. On the other hand, the number of such meetings provided with interpretation increased by 20 per cent, owing mainly to an increase in meetings of the Security Council (from 540 in 2013 to 651 in 2014). The number of meetings of the General Assembly increased by 36 per cent, from 245 in 2013 to 332 in 2014. Those increases were partially offset by a lower number of "as required" meetings of the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services, totalling 22 fewer meetings in 2014 than in 2013 (see also sect. III, table 1, of the supplementary information).

Table 3
Comparative analysis of the provision of conference services for bodies entitled to meet "as required" in New York and Geneva

	Meetings with interpretation services				Meetings without interpretation services		
Duty station	Requested	Provided	Not provided	Percentage provided	Requested	Held	Percentage held
New York							
2014	1 110	1 075	35	97	614	614	100
2013	921	899	22	98	420	420	100
2012	687	664	23	97	411	411	100
Geneva							
2014	63	63	–	100	–	–	–
2013	32	32	–	100	–	–	–
2012	54	54	–	100	–	–	–

3. Provision of interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States

16. Table 4 and section IV of the supplementary information summarize the provision of conference services to regional and other major groupings of Member States at the four duty stations for 2014. In New York, the rate declined from 96 per cent in 2013 to 88 per cent in 2014, but the number of meetings provided with interpretation changed little. The Department's ability to meet the higher number of requests was affected by the greater demands detailed above. In Geneva, the demand more than doubled in relation to 2013. Services were provided for 29 more meetings than in 2013, although the percentage declined to 76 per cent, compared with 81 per cent in 2013. Although the United Nations Office at Vienna and the United Nations Office at Nairobi do not usually receive requests to provide interpretation services to meetings of regional and other major groupings of Member States, both are able to provide such groups with such services whenever they have the capacity. In 2014, the two duty stations met three and seven such requests, respectively.

Table 4
Comparative analysis of the provision of conference services for meetings of regional and other major groupings

A. 2014

	Meetings with interpretation services				*Meetings without interpretation services*		
	Requested	*Provided*	*Not provided*	*Percentage provided*	*Requested*	*Held*	*Percentage held*
New York	177	155	20	88	942	942	100
Geneva	78	59	19	76	482	482	100
Vienna	3	3	–	100	319	319	100
Nairobi	7	7	–	100	318	318	100
Total	**265**	**224**	**41**	**85**	**2 061**	**2 061**	**100**

B. 2013

	Meetings with interpretation services				*Meetings without interpretation services*		
	Requested	*Provided*	*Not provided*	*Percentage provided*	*Requested*	*Held*	*Percentage held*
New York	165	158	7	96	815	815	100
Geneva	37	30	7	81	595	595	100
Vienna	2	2	–	100	345	345	100
Nairobi	5	5	–	100	506	506	100
Total	**209**	**195**	**14**	**93**	**2 261**	**2 261**	**100**

C. 2012

	Meetings with interpretation services				*Meetings without interpretation services*		
	Requested	*Provided*	*Not provided*	*Percentage provided*	*Requested*	*Held*	*Percentage held*
New York	163	155	8	95	942	942	100
Geneva	116	98	18	84	626	626	100
Vienna	1	1	–	100	359	359	100
Nairobi	1	1	–	100	268	268	100
Total	**281**	**255**	**26**	**91**	**2 195**	**2 195**	**100**

4. Utilization of conference facilities at the United Nations Office at Nairobi

17. In 2014, in accordance with several resolutions of the General Assembly, including paragraph 28 of resolution 69/250, all meetings of Nairobi-based bodies were held in Nairobi, in conformity with the headquarters rule.

5. Utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa

18. The utilization of the conference centre of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) increased by 15 per cent from an average of nearly 70 per cent over the previous three years to 85 per cent during the biennium 2014-2015. Among the factors contributing to that surge were proactive marketing initiatives spearheaded by the letter of the Executive Secretary of ECA to other United Nations agencies in Addis Ababa urging them to make the centre their primary conference venue, an increase in the occupancy rate of the Zambezi Building (formerly the new office facility) with the arrival of five additional United Nations agencies and closer partnership with non-United Nations regional organizations, such as the African Union Commission and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development.

19. Given the number of conferences scheduled for 2015 through the African Union Commission-ECA partnership, a further increase in the capacity utilization rate is envisaged. Conference rooms 3 to 6 returned to full capacity in March 2014, thereby expanding overall capacity. A competitive pricing structure, based on a study of the conference-services market, preventive maintenance and the upgrading of facilities, has been introduced, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 33 of its resolution 69/250, to increase the market share. In view of the increased demand and the higher capacity utilization rate, satisfying the market has become just as important as securing it.

C. Impact of the implementation of the capital master plan on meetings held at Headquarters

20. The capital master plan is now complete. The migration from the North Lawn Building to the General Assembly Building was finalized with the completion of level 1B of the latter at the end of December 2014. Consequently, meeting room capacity has been fully restored and even increased with the addition of two medium-sized rooms and a small room. An updated chart showing the availability of

the conference rooms during the final phase is provided in section V of the supplementary information.

D. Accessibility measures

21. The Division of Conference Management at the United Nations Office at Geneva continues to provide international sign language interpretation and video captioning to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the mandated panels on disability of the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the legislative mandates approved by the General Assembly. Upon request and when feasible, the Division has also provided those services to extrabudgetary panels of the Council accessible to persons with disabilities (on a reimbursable basis) and provides selected documents in Braille to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the only body currently entitled to that service in Geneva. Hearing loops are also available for use in most rooms equipped with modern technology and documentation in Braille is provided on request.

II. Integrated global management

A. Status report

22. Single information technology systems are now operational, with maintenance work and enhancements continuing as part of the stabilization phase. The meetings management system, gMeets, is operational at the four main duty stations. The documents planning and processing system, gDoc, was launched in Geneva and New York in May 2014. The Documents Control and Productivity Monitoring System, which is integrated with the other conference management tools, continues to be used in Vienna and Nairobi. The computer-assisted translation and terminology management system, gText, has been launched at the four main duty stations. Lastly, the gData system captures budget and finance data pertaining to conference management from the four main duty stations for performance reporting and management, although further fine-tuning will be necessary based on feedback.

23. A governance mechanism has been established to coordinate information technology initiatives by cultivating effective relationships between the business and information technology units at the four main duty stations. The Department has finalized its review of the terms of reference of its Information Technology Governance Board, in consultation with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, to ensure that its roles and responsibilities are clearly defined. In addition, a steering group, chaired by the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management and comprising senior management at all duty stations, has been established to approach priority issues systemically. Its responsibilities include overseeing the harmonization of workflows and the exchange of best practices within and among duty stations, the mainstreaming of global information technology systems and the streamlining of global reporting structures and procedures to ensure clarity and to contribute to the achievement of the Department's integrated global management objectives.

24. In response to the request of the General Assembly in paragraph 38 of its resolution 68/251 and paragraph 48 of its resolution 69/250, the Under-Secretary-

General for General Assembly and Conference Management and the Directors-General of the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi have agreed upon a clear delineation of their responsibilities concerning conference management policies, operations and resource utilization and have proposed revisions to the current bulletins of the Secretary-General that define the organization of the Department and of the Offices. The drafts of the revised bulletins are currently under review.

25. As shown in table 5, the total amount of translation workload shared continued to be modest owing to limited spare capacity at the four main duty stations. The lower level in 2014 was due to the fact that the surge in 2013 was caused by the transfer of responsibility for processing the pre-session documents of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women from Geneva to New York. Documents in this category are no longer being counted as workload sharing.

Table 5
Workload sharing
(Words shared)

	2009	*2010*	*2011*[a]	*2012*	*2013*	*2014*
New York	–	140 780	4 923 310	367 781	2 677 685	814 188
Geneva	–	212 480	27 360	8 310	146 890	98 526
Vienna	170 224	188 563	80 751	357 855	296 734	310 784
Nairobi	92 265	34 049	–	81 091	164 450	18 377
Total	**262 489**	**577 882**	**5 031 421**	**815 037**	**3 285 759**	**1 241 875**

[a] Reflects the one-time transfer of the backlog of documentation from the United Nations Office at Geneva to Headquarters.

26. The Department adheres scrupulously to the principle of equal treatment of all language services in terms of working conditions and allocation of resources, while taking due account of the specificities of each service. All language staff enjoy equal access to all the tools and components of the global information technology infrastructure and are afforded flexibility in the use of such tools. Resources, including temporary assistance and support from the Contractual Translation Unit, are allocated on the basis of operational needs.

27. As previously reported, the statistical machine translation component of gText, Tapta4UN, was developed in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization at no cost to the United Nations and utilizes a corpus of documents translated by the Department over the past 15 years. The system has been in operation since 2012 and improvements are being introduced continuously on the basis of user feedback.

28. New initiatives to strengthen integrated global management include centralization of the roster of contractual translators to which all duty stations will henceforth have access. The steering group has also endorsed the recommendation that all duty stations should henceforth be invited to participate in the organization and conduct of the language competitive examinations, including the selection and marking of test papers and the interviewing of candidates who pass the written

portion of the examination. Recommendations have also been made to harmonize work processes and standardize best practices, where feasible, across duty stations.

29. With regard to the cost-effective servicing of meetings held away from the main duty stations, the estimated savings are presented in table 6 and details are set out in section VI of the supplementary information. The Department reiterates that, in the absence of more formal accounting rules, the figures are only estimates. Such savings most often accrue to the host countries or to the substantive departments and not to the Department itself. Furthermore, while the Department consistently implements the policy of minimizing costs without having a negative impact on the quality of services, wherever possible, opportunities for such savings are not always within its control. The nominal savings are therefore a one-dimensional quantification and not a realistic measure of performance.

Table 6
Notional savings through implementation of the integrated global management rule
(United States dollars)

Year	*Savings*
2010	675 590
2011	450 000
2012	800 000
2013	1 289 000
2014	1 735 000

30. In preparation for the launch of Umoja in the Department on 1 November (Umoja was launched at the United Nations Office at Nairobi on 1 June 2015), the Department is preparing for the transition from the current Flextime system to Umoja for management of the time and attendance of staff.

B. Performance measurement

1. E-survey

31. The global e-survey captures feedback from Member States on common indicators covering meeting services, translation and interpretation services and the overall quality of conference services at the four main duty stations. In New York, additional information and ratings are collected on technical Secretariat services.

32. The e-survey results are presented in section VII, part 6, of the supplementary information. The e-survey has been adapted in various ways. It is now shorter, user-friendlier and visually more appealing. Some questions are no longer mandatory and the deadlines have been extended. Despite those improvements, however, the response rate remains low.

33. In 2014, although the e-survey was accessed 5,085 times globally, only 200 submissions were received, for a completion rate of 4 per cent. The Department's services were rated either "very good" or "good", the two highest ratings available (see sect. VII of the supplementary information).

34. To complement the e-survey, the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva identified six meetings at which participants were invited to provide additional views and comments. More than 93 per cent of the 62 respondents gave a rating of "good" or "very good" for the overall quality of conference services in Geneva.

2. Informational meetings and meetings with clients

35. Language-specific informational meetings with Member States and/or meetings with clients were held at all four duty stations over the past year. At Headquarters, 27 representatives of Member States participated, six more than the total for the previous year. Participants exchanged views with representatives of the language services in various areas, including the performance of the global information technology projects, training and outreach activities, reaffirmation of the principle of multilingualism and the quality of translation and interpretation services. The informational meetings for 2015 at Headquarters are scheduled to be held in August.

36. At the United Nations Office at Geneva, document management, translation and interpretation issues were discussed in detail with all main clients (the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the secretariats of the treaty bodies, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Joint Inspection Unit) during a visit by the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management in February 2014. The Division of Conference Management thereafter took the necessary follow-up action. The United Nations Office at Vienna held an informational meeting with the permanent missions on 3 June 2015 for all official languages. Participants expressed overwhelming satisfaction with and appreciation for the meetings and documentation services provided by the Conference Management Service. It was agreed that a follow-up briefing about the online applications available to Member States would be held. The United Nations Office at Nairobi held two language-specific informational meetings in 2014, one in all official languages for all members of the diplomatic corps and one for new members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Environment Programme.

III. Matters relating to documentation and publications

A. Documents management

37. Documents management statistics for slotted documents at all duty stations are presented in section VIII of the supplementary information. In New York, the overall rate of timely submission by author departments remained at 92 per cent, although only 70 per cent of the submitters met the benchmark of 90 per cent, given that many offices responsible for relatively few documents fell short. Of the documents submitted on time and within word limits, 98 per cent were processed in a timely manner. Consequently, 75 per cent of all pre-session documents issued in New York met the mandated timely issuance benchmarks, up from 71 per cent in 2013 and 72 per cent in 2012.

38. At the United Nations Office at Geneva, the timely submission rate was 88 per cent, up from 87 per cent in 2013 and 85 per cent in 2012. Owing to capacity constraints, however, the timely processing rate fell to 41 per cent for Secretariat reports and 21 per cent for non-Secretariat reports, compared with 50 and 22 per cent, respectively, in 2013.

39. The United Nations Office at Vienna recorded a timely submission rate of 93 per cent in 2014, down from 98 per cent in 2013. The number of slotted documents increased markedly, however, from 162 in 2013 to 214 in 2014, while the timely processing rate rose to 76 per cent in 2014. Consequently, overall compliance with the mandated time frame was 88 per cent, compared with 77 per cent in 2013.

40. At the United Nations Office at Nairobi, the rate of timely submission rose sharply from 22 per cent in 2013 to 73 per cent in 2014. In total, 22 documents were slotted for the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, which was the only calendar meeting serviced by the Office in 2014. The processing compliance rate was 81 per cent. Only 3 of 16 documents submitted on time and within the word limits missed their processing deadlines owing to the high vacancy rates and consequent lack of capacity in some language units.

41. In 2014, the percentage of slotted documents complying with word limits was 80 per cent at Headquarters, nearly 100 per cent at the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Nairobi and 90 per cent at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

42. Regarding compliance with the simultaneous distribution policy, in New York official documents are generally distributed both electronically and in hard copy only when they are available in all the official languages. The United Nations Office at Geneva, however, is yet to overcome the systemic challenges created by the establishment of the universal periodic review process. Universal periodic review outcome reports submitted to the Human Rights Council are slotted in accordance with the 10-4-6 rule and only 11 of 45 such documents were issued on time in 2014. Of the 34 documents that were issued late, however, 31 were issued before the beginning of the session. Although universal periodic review reports are accorded high priority, capacity constraints have not permitted full compliance with the 10-4-6 rule. The situation requires careful analysis aimed at reducing the rate of non-simultaneous issuance without significantly increasing costs.

43. The Department continues to accord high priority to documents for the Fifth Committee. In 2014, it initiated a process of collaboration between its document planning and processing units, author entities, the Fifth Committee and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to project the dates of availability of all pre-session documents for the Fifth Committee. The aim is to involve all clients in planning and managing the workflow so that it is acceptable to all and facilitates the scheduling of the Committee's work, thereby avoiding surprises and improving the ability of all parties to deliver as promised.

B. Coordinator for Multilingualism

44. In paragraph 69 of its resolution 69/250, the General Assembly requested that the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management should be appointed as the new Coordinator for Multilingualism responsible for the overall implementation of multilingualism Secretariat-wide and that the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information should be instructed to continue to inform the public about the importance of that principle. In his most recent report on multilingualism (A/69/282), the Secretary-General suggested that rotation of the role of Coordinator among key offices could be beneficial, given that it would bring different perspectives to bear on how the role might be used to enhance multilingualism and would reflect the practical aspects of implementing a principle with far-reaching implications for the Organization.

45. In response to the above-mentioned request by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General recently appointed the Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management as the new Coordinator for Multilingualism. The role of the Coordinator was defined in Assembly resolutions 54/64 and 61/266 and in related reports, in particular A/61/317, paragraph 11, in which the Secretary-General set out the following task for the Coordinator:

> The task of the Coordinator is to harmonize the measures implemented and to propose strategies to ensure that United Nations linguistic practices are in keeping with the recommendations and provisions of the various resolutions relating to multilingualism. Among other things, the Coordinator centralizes the proposals and requests having to do with multilingualism throughout the Secretariat.

46. The responsibility of the Coordinator is based on the cooperation of all departments concerned and the availability of the necessary input that needs to be defined in the context of the agenda item on the pattern of conferences.

47. The Department continues to focus on supporting multilingualism by concentrating on the simultaneous and timely issuance of high-quality parliamentary documentation in the official languages, in accordance with specific mandates, and providing interpretation services, as required, to the meetings of bodies entitled thereto. The Department of Public Information and other departments and offices, as appropriate, will continue to manage and monitor the public United Nations websites to ensure their adherence to the principle of multilingualism.

C. Digitization of important older United Nations documents

48. The Department of Public Information and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management are working together to increase online access to historical United Nations documents. An estimated 17 million paper documents exist in United Nations repositories, mostly from the pre-digital era before 1993. Some 3 million of them have been identified as particularly important and in need of urgent digitization. The complementary skills and resources of both Departments have been melded into a single team to address this challenge. As at April 2015, 360,000 documents had been digitized, catalogued and made available, representing some 11 per cent of the estimated total.

D. Digital support of meeting proceedings

49. The responsibility for supporting and further refining the paper-smart concept as a corporate solution has been assigned to the Office of Information and Communications Technology. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has continued to implement it in its mandated activities. In November 2014, additional services were launched to strengthen the premise set forth in the report of the Secretary-General that, in addition to digital copies, paper will always be available to meeting participants on demand (A/68/123, para. 6). This has been accomplished by establishing a documents assistance centre in the North Delegates Lounge to serve as a central point of support for delegates seeking documentation assistance. It complements the services provided by the Delegates Documents Counter on the 1B level of the Secretariat Building and the conference officer desks in the meeting rooms. Those service points ensure that delegates are able to obtain documents on demand. To further ensure that Member States have all required information, an announcement is regularly published in the *Journal of the United Nations* advising delegations on how to gain access to hard and soft copies of documents.

50. In Vienna, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee completed their pilot projects with the use of digital recordings and at their sessions in 2015 agreed to discontinue the use of unedited transcripts and to use digital recordings on a permanent basis, on the understanding that the digital recording application should be further enhanced. The United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, whose pilot project with digital recordings also ran until 2015, recently decided to prolong the practice of providing digital recordings in parallel with summary records until at least its forty-ninth session, in 2016. At that time, the Secretariat could report on any additional information to the General Assembly.

51. Concerning legal, financial and human resources implications, it is recalled that recordings of public, open meetings of those bodies, as well as most other bodies, have been made since the early years of the Organization for archival purposes. Those recordings were made available at the request of Member States on an ad hoc basis. Modern technology facilitates easier access to the recordings and bodies that decide to use them make them available on their websites, as is the case with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law. Digital recordings were introduced by those bodies with the intention of obtaining a modern, authentic, readily available and less-expensive digital tool as an alternative to written meeting records or as an additional service.

IV. Matters relating to translation and interpretation

A. Enhancing the capacity of language professionals

52. Competitive examinations for the recruitment of candidates to fill language posts are held as needed, depending on the status of the rosters of successful candidates and the projected staffing needs of the service or section in question. Examinations are staggered so that those that are most urgent are held earlier. The

examination schedule is widely advertised through the language careers portal, universities in the memorandum of understanding network, newspapers and, increasingly, social media. Vacancies arising from anticipated retirements are advertised at least six months in advance in order to ensure the timely completion of the selection process and a smooth succession.

53. The Department's internship programme has developed an enviable track record as an incubator for successful candidates in the language competitive examinations. Collaboration with partner universities in the memorandum of understanding network continued to be strengthened over the past year, culminating in the holding, in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, in April 2015, of the Fourth Conference of Memorandum of Understanding Universities. Potential candidates for traineeships continue to be identified through ad hoc testing and outreach efforts. Chiefs of language services are also being encouraged to make full use of the lists of candidates who came within a certain margin of passing the examinations and who, with the agreement of the Office of Human Resources Management, are now considered eligible for temporary contracts and traineeships. This measure is without prejudice to recruitment of regular language staff exclusively through the examinations and is expected to facilitate the enlargement of the pools of qualified language professionals eligible for temporary recruitment and contracts during peak workload periods to complement in-house capacity.

54. Other initiatives currently under way include enhancement of the form and content of the Department's online careers portal, with support from the universities in the memorandum of understanding network in translating content into all the official languages; use of social media to announce the holding of language competitive examinations; initiatives to raise the Department's profile, such as the expansion of the annual St. Jerome Translation Contest to include participants from universities in the network; targeting of prospective freelances through professional bodies such as the International Association of Conference Translators; and more frequent exchanges of staff with sister international organizations.

55. The overall effectiveness of the outreach programme has been analysed in terms of the success rate of candidates from universities in the memorandum of understanding network in the language competitive examinations. Data on the candidates who were rostered in 2010-2014 after passing such an examination were analysed to determine which universities had trained them. In total, 56 per cent of the successful examination candidates in 2010-2014 had attended at least one of the universities in the network. The analysis confirms that, from a recruitment perspective, the Department has generally partnered with the right universities. Intensive pedagogical assistance, such as that provided by the Russian Translation Service and the Russian Interpretation Section, expedites the preparation of candidates from such universities for the examinations. The results of examinations held in other years will be analysed with a view to validating the findings and identifying trends.

56. Further expansion of the network of universities will be governed by the projected staffing needs of individual language services, the capacity of those services to provide cooperation and support to additional universities and the desirability of ensuring equitable geographical coverage of the network. On the basis of those criteria, the Department decided to accept the application of the King Fahd School of Translation, in Tangier, Morocco, to join the network. Outreach to

universities in Africa is continuing under the African project and with pedagogical and other forms of assistance from the United Nations Office at Nairobi. The assistance of permanent missions has been solicited to identify potential partner universities in other regions, including Central America and the Caribbean.

57. The United Nations Office at Nairobi is endeavouring to reduce vacancy rates in its language services by proactively seeking out candidates, posting all vacancies in Inspira and offering temporary contracts to qualified candidates with a view to training and preparing them for the language competitive examinations. Those efforts have yielded positive results. Four current staff members of the Office were recruited on temporary contracts, trained and successfully prepared for the examinations in that way. In addition, three interpreters that took the training offered under the Pan-African Masters Consortium in Interpretation and Translation initiative are often recruited in Nairobi as freelances: two English interpreters from the University of Nairobi and one French interpreter from the University of Ghana. The Consortium was formally established in 2012 in Addis Ababa and includes universities from Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Mozambique. It is serviced by a permanent secretariat operating from the Office that ensures synergy between the partners and coordinates and advises the members on best practices.

58. In addition, staff at the United Nations Office at Nairobi continued to assist in the training and testing of students at the University of Nairobi whenever the University requested the Office's help.

59. The upgrading of language posts to the P-5 level, in line with the principle of equal grade for equal work, has also had a positive impact on the vacancy rates at the Office and is expected to assist in the further reduction of vacancies and the retention of staff at the duty station. The average vacancy rate for language staff at the Office has fallen to 19 per cent, compared with a previous peak of 35 per cent. By the end of 2015, the rate is estimated to fall further to 13 per cent.

B. Quality of interpretation and translation

60. The Department recognizes the critical role of its language professionals in facilitating the work of the Organization's intergovernmental machinery and therefore attaches the highest priority to the quality, and in particular the accuracy, of its translation output. It ensures quality by maintaining a rigorous selection process for its language staff, providing intensive in-house training and mentoring to new recruits during a two-year probationary period, editing all documents submitted in English to facilitate accurate translation into the other official languages and providing written guidelines and instructions, terminological databases, reference support and computer-assisted and machine translation tools. The output of relatively inexperienced translators at the P-2 and P-3 levels is systematically revised by revisers at the P-4 and P-5 levels. Likewise, the Interpretation Service attaches utmost importance to the quality of its output. Interpreters join the United Nations after a rigorous examination. On-the-job training, external studies and internal workshops are among the tools used to maintain quality. Senior interpreters monitor the work of junior colleagues and give them regular feedback. The work of freelance interpreters is monitored in the same way. The renewal of their annual contracts is subject to satisfactory performance.

61. The Department has long recognized the importance of terminological support for translators, editors and interpreters as a means of ensuring the accuracy, consistency and overall high quality of their output. To that end, it has developed a global terminology portal (http://untermportal.un.org) through which users can access hundreds of thousands of entries. The system is designed to be compatible with the technological tools used by translators and interpreters, including gText, and includes records and glossaries from various local data sets, thereby enhancing the global consistency and quality of the terminology used by language professionals at all duty stations and by external contractors. Work on the portal has greatly enhanced terminological collaboration between language services, duty stations and regional commissions. External partners have also expressed interest in exchanging data and in using the system.

62. The contractual translation rosters are being expanded and clear procedures are being developed to ensure that every individual and institutional contractor on the roster is regularly subject to quality control assessments and feedback, based on standardized criteria, in all six official languages and across the four main duty stations. A contractor management application tool is used to manage the contractual operations, while the eLUNa component of the gText suite of applications will provide contractors with the same level of terminological and reference support that is available to in-house staff.

63. With regard to editing, the Secretariat edits all draft and adopted resolutions to ensure that they are clear, factually accurate, consistent, grammatically and syntactically correct, in conformity with United Nations editorial standards and translatable into the other five languages. Editors are required to consult the relevant officials to clarify any grammatical or other irregularities whose correction could affect the substantive meaning of draft or adopted resolutions and to obtain written approval for any corrections that may be agreed upon. Regarding measures to enhance editing services, various editorial and translation support capacities and operations have been consolidated, resulting in earlier issuance of concorded General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, streamlined production of global terminology data, streamlined editorial and translation support processes and reduction of the competitive examination burden.

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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of eighteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon authorization, I would like to state the position of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) in reference to the confrontational purpose announced by south Korea as it runs for candidature to become a member of the Human Rights Council for the 2016-2018 term.

The south Korean authorities circulated a note verbale requesting support for its candidature as contained in General Assembly document (A/70/88) dated 27 May 2015.

In the document, they openly declared their confrontational commitment against the DPRK by claiming that if they are elected as a member of the Human Rights Council, they would contribute to the effective operation of the field office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in south Korea, to be set up pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution on the situation of human rights in the DPRK.

It is a political and rash act itself for the south Korean authorities to run for candidature to become a Human Rights Council member. The "achievements" and "commitments" described in the document are nothing more than a bunch of empty words to cloak their shameful human rights records.

First, the south Korean authorities cruelly oppress the human rights of their own people with all kinds of evil laws against humanity, including the draconian and infamous "National Security Law", and have turned south Korea into the wilderness of human rights as shown by the tragic fate of the passenger ferry *Sewol*.

Dreaming only of a fictitious "unification of systems", they wield the "National Security Law" to suppress the activities of the political parties, social organizations and people for improved inter-Korean relations and independent and

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peaceful reunification, labeling them as "forces following the north" and "acts benefiting the enemy".

Amid the exponential increment of unemployed people, especially among youths, the working people who are suffering from various kinds of industrial accidents and murderous labour are waging strikes to demand their human rights, including the right to subsistence. However, they are ruthlessly cracked down upon as illegal.

It is the true feature of the south Korean authorities that caused such a catastrophic disaster as the burying at sea of hundreds of young lives aboard the ferry *Sewol* and yet mercilessly crushed the memorial services of the victims' families and citizens by firing toxic tear gas against them.

Second, the south Korean authorities, in collusion with foreign forces, squashed people to death with military tanks, violated the national dignity and the right to self-determination and, furthermore, have been committing criminal acts to bring the Korean Peninsula to the brink of a war.

As south Korea is a colony whose sovereign rights, including its military prerogatives, have been handed over to the United States, it does not lodge even a word of protest when the US aggression forces on its land kill citizens and young students with military tanks and perpetrate terrifying crimes of all sorts against humanity such as murder, rape, robbery and violence.

Moreover, the south Korean authorities are pitifully obliged to protect and back up the United States when it brings into south Korea at random weapons of mass destruction like nuclear weapons and anthrax, which can exterminate the whole Korean nation, and conducts nuclear bombing exercises.

Having defined their fellow countrymen as the "enemy", they trample underfoot the living ground of the nation by waging aggressive war exercises with the United States one after another every year with the goal of "occupying Pyongyang".

Third, the authorities established the "United Nations human rights office" in south Korea, which serves as a hotbed of "anti-DPRK human rights" plots and an extreme manifestation of politicization of human rights, thus abusing the United Nations human rights arena as a confrontational ground to smear and slander their fellow countrymen.

As stated on several occasions, the DPRK totally rejects the report of the commission of inquiry on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council and the "United Nations office on human rights".

Recently, the DPRK Government made a statement on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of publication of the historic 15 June Joint Declaration, by which it put forward a principled position and fair and above-board ways to improve prevailing inter-Korean relations as early as possible and to open up a turning phase for national reconciliation and unity by our nation itself.

And it repeatedly warned against the "United Nations human rights office", which would result in head-on confrontation between the north and the south of Korea.

However, the south Korean authorities, hell-bent on confrontation with their compatriots, desperately set up the "United Nations human rights office" in Seoul, thus completely blocking the road to improved inter-Korean relations and driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula to an unpredictable phase.

By nature, they care nothing about the protection and promotion of the genuine human rights of the popular masses. What they did as a member of the Human Rights Council in the past was to go amok as a shock brigade in the anti-DPRK "human rights" move on the basis of the information fabricated by the human scum who make a living, taking a few dollars.

We categorically reject the candidature of south Korea, a total sum of impotence and humiliation, for membership on the Human Rights Council together with the "United Nations human rights office", which constitutes direct confrontation against the DPRK.

We also request all States Members of the United Nations to reject south Korea's candidature in conformity with the principles of opposing politicization and confrontation in the field of human rights.

Enclosed herewith is the statement of the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DPRK dated 23 June 2015 denouncing the establishment of the "United Nations human rights office" in south Korea.

I kindly request that you have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, under item 114(e) of the preliminary list.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 26 June 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry

The spokesman for the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued the following statement on 23 June 2015:

The dishonest, hostile forces are getting extremely reckless and provocative in their moves to tarnish the dignity and image of the DPRK and bring down its ideology and social system at any cost under the pretext of the "human rights issue", which is non-existent.

The hostile forces finally set up the ghost-like "United Nations office of human rights" in south Korea despite the repeated warnings of the DPRK and strong protest by different countries and their peoples.

This is a hideous, politically motivated provocation challenging the dignity and social system of the DPRK and a criminal act of escalating tensions on the Korean Peninsula and in the region and inciting confrontation under the pretext of "protecting human rights".

The hostile forces are advertising the establishment of the "office" as pursuant to the "resolution" of the Human Rights Council, but they can never cover up their true colors as plot-breeders.

The DPRK categorically opposed and rejected the "human rights resolution" railroaded through the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council in March 2014 as it was a product of the vicious and hostile policy of the US towards the DPRK. The DPRK, therefore, will never recognize the "office" set up pursuant to the "resolution".

The DPRK vehemently condemns the ruckus of setting up the "office" in Seoul as another form of the anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign launched by the hostile forces seized with inveterate repugnance towards the DPRK.

The south Korean puppet authorities have turned south Korea into a tundra of human rights by invoking the "Security Law" and other evil laws. It is the height of impudence for them to have taken the lead in setting up such an "office", speaking volumes about the "human rights issue" in the DPRK.

They allowed the setting up of the "office" in Seoul although no country in the world dared do so. This is anachronistic behaviour and a grave provocation pushing the inter-Korean confrontation to an extreme phase, contrary to the desire of all Koreans for improved inter-Korean relations.

It is as clear as day that the "office" is no more than a centre for gathering misinformation cooked up by "defectors from the north" and other riff-raff to earn money as it is set to implement the US hostile policy towards the DPRK from A to Z.

It is ridiculous indeed for the US and other hostile forces to work hard to save the anti-DPRK "human rights" campaign from bankruptcy by patronizing the human scum who eke out their living through false propaganda.

It is no more than a daydream for them to try to do harm to the DPRK, standing highly dignified for its independence and Songun, by employing such base means and methods as setting up the "office".

The DPRK will decisively foil the reckless "human rights" racket against the DPRK through the toughest resolute counteractions.